

S/N 09/988,983



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PATENT

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant:	WOOLFORD	Examiner:	UNKNOWN
Serial No.:	09/988,983	Group Art Unit:	3672
Filed:	NOVEMBER 19, 2001	Docket No.:	3616.111USC3
Title:	COMPOSITE MASONRY BLOCK		

See ok
S/C
10/31/02

CERTIFICATE UNDER 37 CFR 1.8:

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as first class mail, with sufficient postage, in an envelope addressed to: Commissioner for Patents, Washington, D.C. 20231 on June 17, 2002.

Temple Polk
Temple Polk

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

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JUN 27 2002
GROUP 3600

Dear Sir:

Prior to beginning examination of the above-referenced application, please amend the application as follows.

In the Drawings

Applicant proposes amending Figure 3 of the drawings as shown in red on the Proposed Drawing Correction enclosed herewith under separate cover.

In the Specification

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 10, line 7, with the following replacement paragraph:

C

CV -- The side surfaces may also comprise insets 22A and 22B for use in receiving other means which secure and align the blocks during placement. In accordance with one embodiment of the invention, the insets may extend from the block top surface 10 to the block bottom surface 8. The insets in one preferred embodiment are defined by front walls 22C and 22D, back walls 22E and 22F, and walls 22G and 22H interconnecting the front and back walls. Further, these insets may be angled across the height of the block to provide a structure which gradually sets back over the height of the wall. When mated with protrusions 26, the insets may also be angled to provide a retaining wall which is substantially vertical.--

In the Claims

Please cancel claims 28-63 without prejudice or disclaimer.

Please add new claims 64-94 as follows.

CV 64. (New) A retaining wall block suitable for production on automated masonry block manufacturing equipment employing a concrete mixture comprising water in a concentration range of between about 1% and about 6% by weight, said block comprising:

a block body having a front, a back, a top, a bottom, and first and second sides, wherein the block body front comprises a front surface that has a roughened texture, said block body top and said block body bottom being configured so that when a plurality of like blocks are stacked in ascending courses to form a wall, at least a portion of the bottom of the blocks in an upper course rest upon at least a portion of the top of the adjacent blocks in the next lower course so that the tops of the blocks in said upper course are generally horizontal;

a first inset in said first side extending from said block top to said block bottom,

a second inset in said second side extending from said block top to said block bottom,

one or more locator protrusions formed integrally with the block body and located on said block body top or on said block body bottom,

wherein at least a portion of each locator protrusion is adapted to fit within an inset on a block in an adjacent course of blocks when a plurality of the blocks are stacked in ascending courses to form a wall, each locator protrusion having a smaller front-to-back dimension than the front-to-back dimension of its corresponding inset so that when a plurality of the blocks are

C/ stacked in ascending courses, portions of the insets and locator protrusions of adjacent blocks in adjacent courses contact each other in a shear-resisting position in which interference between the locator protrusions and insets resist the tendency of a block in the upper course to slide forwardly in response to the anticipated forces that will be exerted on the block by retained earth, and in which there is not interference between the locator protrusions and insets that will resist at least some rearward shifting of the upper course block; and wherein the locator protrusions and insets are sized and shaped to permit relative rotation of the insets and protrusions to thereby facilitate the construction of serpentine walls while maintaining said shear-resisting position.

2 ~~65~~. (New) The block of claim ~~64~~ wherein said first and second insets are positioned at approximately the midpoint of said first and second sides, respectively.

3 ~~66~~. (New) The block of claim ~~64~~ wherein said first and second insets are positioned proximate said block body front.

4 ~~67~~. (New) The block of claim ~~64~~ wherein the block body back comprises a back surface that is narrower than the block body front and wherein the block further comprises an opposed pair of legs extending from opposite ends of the back surface.

5 ~~68~~. (New) The block of claim ~~64~~ in which the block comprises a pair of locator protrusions.

6 ~~69~~. (New) The block of claim ~~64~~ in which the block comprises a single locator protrusion.

7 ~~70~~. (New) The block of claim ~~69~~ in which the locator protrusion comprises two lobes and a narrowed portion between the lobes.

8 ~~71~~. (New) The block of claim ~~64~~ in which the one or more locator protrusions are formed on the block body in such a location relative to the insets that, when a plurality of like blocks are stacked in ascending courses, and the protrusions and insets are configured in the

shear-resisting position, the blocks in each ascending course are set back from the blocks in the adjacent course below.

9 ~~72~~. (New) The block of claim ~~64~~ wherein said block body has an open core portion extending from said top to said bottom.

C 10 ~~73~~. (New) The block of claim ~~64~~ wherein at least a portion of each protrusion has a curved side that is configured to contact an inset in a block in an adjacent course of blocks in the shear resisting position.

11 ~~74~~. (New) A retaining wall block comprising:
a front surface having a rough texture, a back surface, a top surface having at least a contact portion thereof that is generally horizontal and generally planar, a bottom surface having at least a contact portion thereof that is generally horizontal and generally planar and that is configured and adapted to rest upon the contact portion of the top surface of a like block when a plurality of like blocks are stacked in ascending courses, and first and second sides,
a first inset in said first side, and a second inset in said second side, each said inset being delimited by a front wall and a back wall that each extend inwardly towards the opposite side, and a wall interconnecting said front and back walls, said front, back and interconnecting walls each having a height that is substantially equal to the distance between said generally horizontal and generally planar contact portions of said top surface and said bottom surface, and
one or more locator protrusions integrally formed on said top or bottom surface,
wherein each locator protrusion is adapted to fit within an inset on a block in an adjacent course of blocks when a plurality of like blocks are stacked in ascending courses to form a retaining wall so that the insets and locator protrusions of adjacent blocks in adjacent courses contact each other in a shear-resisting position in which interference between the locator protrusions and insets resist the tendency of a block in the upper course to slide forwardly in response to the anticipated forces that will be exerted on the block by retained earth, and in which there is not interference between the locator protrusions and insets that will resist at least some rearward shifting of the upper course block; and wherein the locator protrusions and insets

are sized and shaped to permit relative rotation of the insets and protrusions to thereby facilitate the construction of serpentine walls while maintaining said shear-resisting position.

C) 12. 75. (New) The block of claim 74¹¹ in which the one or more locator protrusions are formed on the block body in such a location relative to the insets that, when a plurality of like blocks are stacked in ascending courses, and the protrusions and insets are configured in the shear-resisting position, the blocks in each ascending course are set back from the blocks in the adjacent course below.

13. 76. (New) The block of claim 74¹¹, wherein, for each said inset, said front and back walls are substantially parallel to each other.

14. 77. (New) The block of claim 74¹¹, wherein said front and back walls are substantially parallel to said back surface.

15. 78. (New) The block of claim 74¹¹, wherein, for each said inset, the length of said front wall is greater than the length of said back wall.

16. 79. (New) The block of claim 74¹¹, wherein, for each said inset, the height of said front, back and interconnecting walls is generally constant.

17. 80. (New) The block of claim 74¹¹, wherein the one or more protrusions each include a curved portion that is configured to contact the front or back wall of an inset in the shear resisting position.

18. 81. (New) The block of claim 74¹¹, wherein the distance between said generally horizontal and generally planar portions of said top surface and said bottom surface is substantially equal to the height of said front surface.

19. 82. (New) A retaining wall block comprising:

a front surface having a rough texture, a back surface, a top surface having at least a contact portion thereof that is generally horizontal and generally planar, a bottom surface having at least a contact portion thereof that is generally horizontal and generally planar and that is configured and adapted to rest upon the contact portion of the top surface of a like block when a plurality of like blocks are stacked in ascending courses, and first and second sides,

C) a first inset in said first side, and a second inset in said second side, each said inset being delimited by a front wall and a back wall that extend inwardly towards the opposite side, and a curved wall interconnecting said front and back walls, said front, back and curved walls each having a height that is substantially equal to the distance between said generally horizontal and generally planar contact portions of said top surface and said bottom surface, and

a locator protrusion integrally formed on said top or bottom surface, wherein said locator protrusion comprises first and second curved end sections between which is positioned a joining section,

wherein said locator protrusion is adapted to fit within an inset on a block in an adjacent course of blocks when a plurality of the blocks are stacked in courses to form a retaining wall, and wherein said locator protrusion has a smaller front-to-back dimension than the front-to-back dimension of its corresponding inset so that when a plurality of the blocks are stacked in ascending courses, the insets and locator protrusions of adjacent blocks in adjacent courses contact each other in a shear-resisting position in which interference between the locator protrusions and insets resist the tendency of a block in the upper course to slide forwardly in response to the anticipated forces that will be exerted on the block by retained earth, and in which there is not interference between the locator protrusions and insets that will resist at least some rearward shifting of the upper course block; and wherein the locator protrusions and insets are sized and shaped to permit relative rotation of the insets and protrusions to thereby facilitate the construction of serpentine walls while maintaining said shear-resisting position.

~~83~~¹⁹ 83. (New) The block of claim ~~82~~¹⁹, wherein said joining section has a narrower width than either of said curved sections.

~~84~~¹⁹ 84. (New) The block of claim ~~82~~¹⁹ wherein said first and second insets are positioned at approximately the midpoint of said first and second sides, respectively.

C¹
~~22~~¹⁹ 83. (New) The block of claim ~~82~~¹⁹ wherein said first and second insets are positioned proximate said front surface.

~~23~~¹⁹ 86. (New) The block of claim ~~82~~¹⁹ further comprising an opposed pair of legs extending from opposite ends of the back surface.

~~24~~¹⁹ 87. (New) The block of claim ~~82~~¹⁹ wherein said block front surface is substantially planar.

~~25~~¹⁹ 88. (New) The block of claim ~~82~~¹⁹ wherein said block front surface is faceted.

~~26~~¹⁹ 89. (New) The block of claim ~~82~~¹⁹ wherein said block front surface is outwardly curving.

~~27~~¹⁹ 90. (New) The block of claim ~~82~~¹⁹ in which the locator protrusion is formed on the block body in such a location relative to the insets that, when a plurality of like blocks are stacked in ascending courses, and the protrusion and inset are configured in the shear resisting position, the blocks in each ascending course are set back from the blocks in the adjacent course below.

~~28~~¹⁹ 91. (New) The block of claim ~~82~~¹⁹ wherein said protrusion is positioned between said first and second insets.

~~29~~¹⁹ 92. (New) The block of claim ~~82~~¹⁹ wherein said block has an open core portion extending from said top surface to said bottom surface.

~~30~~¹⁹ 93. (New) The block of claim ~~82~~¹⁹ wherein said first and second sides extend from said front surface to said back surface, and said sides converge together toward said back surface.

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31 ~~94~~ (New) The block of claim ~~82~~ ¹⁹ wherein at least a portion of one of said curved end sections is configured to contact at least a portion of an inset in a block in an adjacent course of blocks in the shear resisting position.

Remarks

Consideration of the above-referenced amendments is requested. New claims 64-94 are added and are pending. The drawings and specification are amended. No new matter has been introduced.

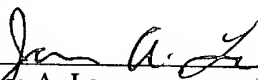
No fee is believed to be due as a result of this amendment. In the event that a fee is due, please charge such fee to Deposit Account No. 13-2725.

Any questions concerning this paper should be directed to the attention of the undersigned at the number provided below.

Respectfully submitted,

MERCHANT & GOULD P.C.
P.O. Box 2903
Minneapolis, MN 55402-0903
612/332-5300

Date: June 17, 2002


James A. Larson
Reg. No. 40,443



S/N 09/988,983



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PATENT

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant:	WOOLFORD	Examiner:	UNKNOWN
Serial No.:	09/988,983	Group Art Unit:	3672
Filed:	NOVEMBER 19, 2001	Docket No.:	3616.111USC3
Title:	COMPOSITE MASONRY BLOCK		

MARKED-UP COPY SHOWING CHANGES MADE

In the Specification

The paragraph beginning at page 10, line 7, is replaced with the following replacement paragraph:

-- The side surfaces may also comprise insets 22A and 22B for use in receiving other means which secure and align the blocks during placement. In accordance with one embodiment of the invention, the insets may extend from the block top surface 10 to the block bottom surface 8. The insets in one preferred embodiment are defined by front walls 22C and 22D, back walls 22E and 22F, and walls 22G and 22H interconnecting the front and back walls. Further, these insets may be angled across the height of the block to provide a structure which gradually sets back over the height of the wall. When mated with protrusions 26, the insets may also be angled to provide a retaining wall which is substantially vertical.--

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Serial No.:	09/988,983	Group Art Unit:	3672
Filed:	November 19, 2001	Docket No.:	3616.111USC3
Title:	COMPOSITE MASONRY BLOCK		

CERTIFICATE UNDER 37 CFR 1.8:

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Kylee Polk
Kylee Polk

PROPOSED DRAWING CORRECTION

Attn: Official Draftsman
Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

Dear Sir:

Applicant proposes to amend the drawings by amending Figure 3 as shown in red on the attached copy. Formal drawings incorporating the proposed changes will be submitted in due course.

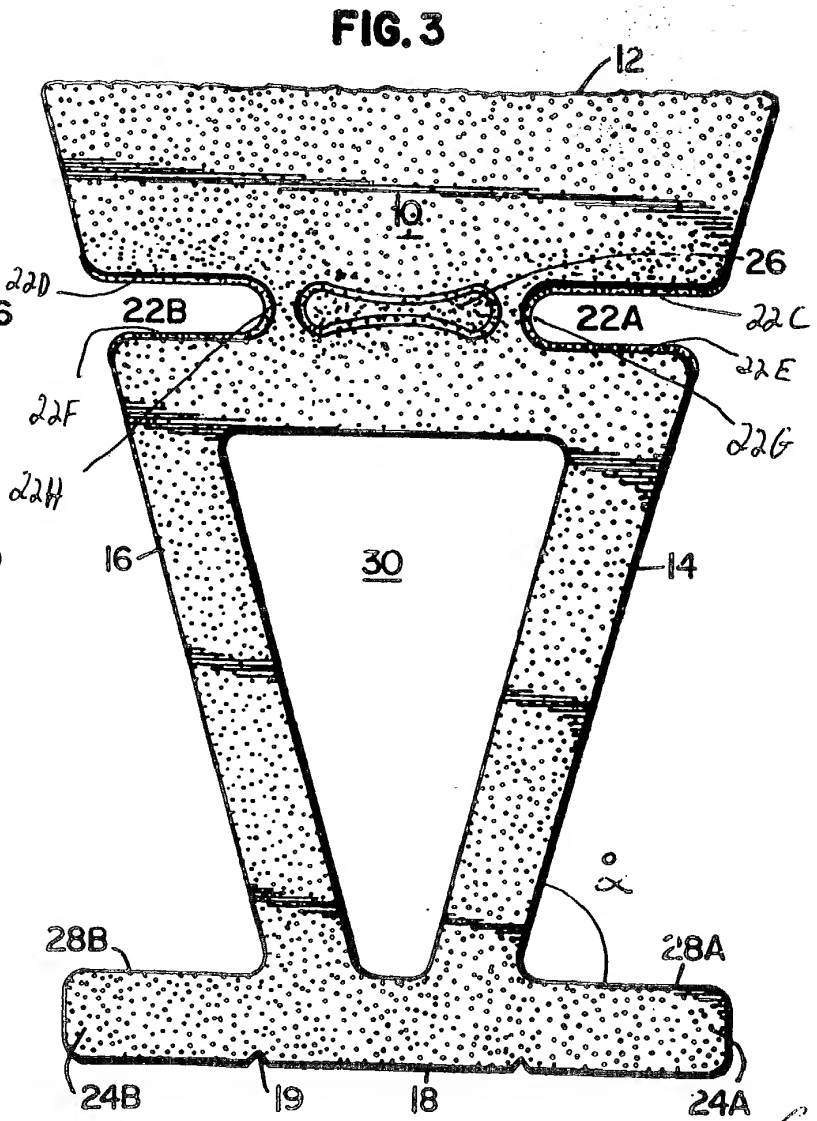
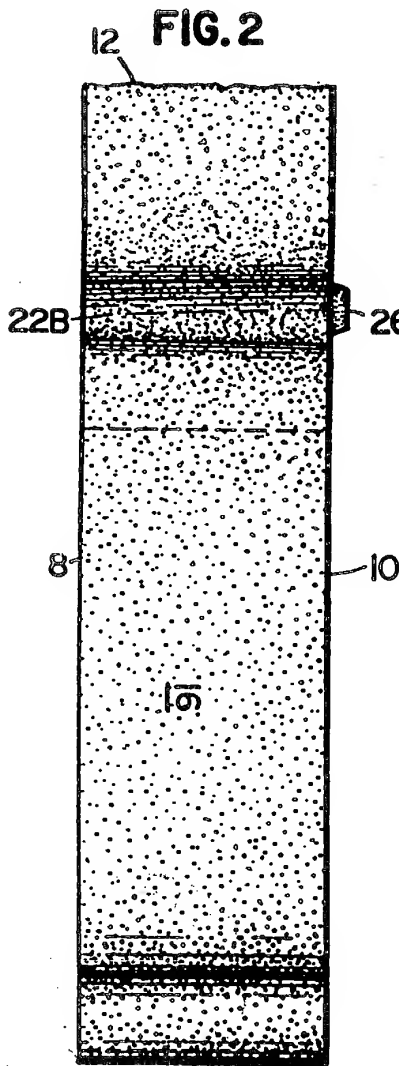
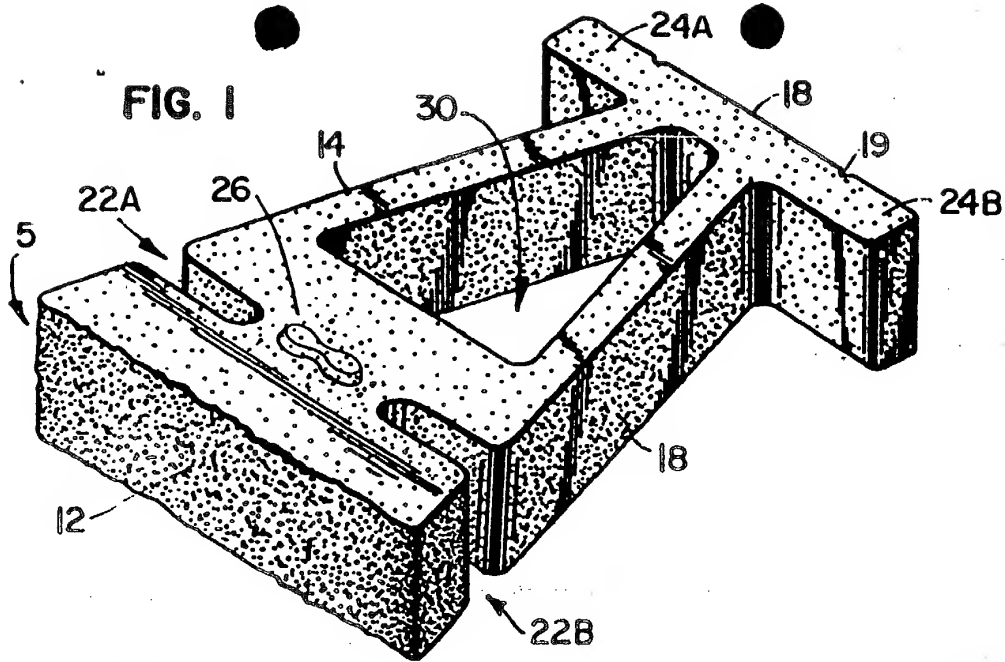
Respectfully submitted,

MERCHANT & GOULD P.C.
P.O. Box 2903
Minneapolis, Minnesota 55402-0903
(612) 332-5300

Date: June 17, 2002

James A. Larson
James A. Larson
Reg. No. 40,443

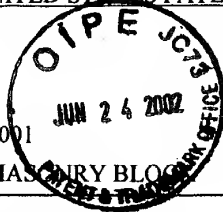
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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant: WOOLFORD
Serial No.: 09/988,983
Filed: November 19, 2001
Title: COMPOSITE MASONRY BLOCK

Examiner: UNKNOWN
Group Art Unit: 3672
Docket: 3616.111USC3



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By: Terrence Polk
Name: Terrence Polk

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Washington, D.C. 20231

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- ☒ Transmittal Sheet in duplicate containing Certificate of Mailing
- ☒ Preliminary Amendment
- ☒ Marked-Up Copy Showing Changes made
- ☒ Proposed Drawing Correction
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MERCHANT & GOULD P.C.
P.O. Box 2903, Minneapolis, MN 55402-0903
612.332.5300

By: James A. Larson
Name: James A. Larson
Reg. No. 40,443
JAL/rmz



IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant: WOOLFORD
Serial No.: 09/988,983
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Examiner: UNKNOWN
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By: *[Signature]*
Name: *Terrell Poll*

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MERCHANT & GOULD P.C.
P.O. Box 2903, Minneapolis, MN 55402-0903
612.332.5300

By: *[Signature]*
Name: James A. Larson
Reg. No.: 40,443
JAL/rmz

